

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/015,903

Examiner

Cindy Nguyen

Applicant(s)

NICASTRO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/05/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39, 41-51 (renumber as 1-50).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Etienne P. Mhuur
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/05/06 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-39 and 41-51 are allowed in light of the applicant arguments and in light of the prior art made of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record failed to disclose: make obvious, or otherwise suggest, a data structure for an asset management system, the data structure stored in a computer readable media, the asset including a plurality of physical items contained in the asset and defined in the data store, the structure comprising: At least one specification for each physical item, the specification comprising a plurality of data values provided in the plurality of data fields defining the item type, said data fields including: at least one attribute value characterizing the item, wherein the at least one attribute is a functional attribute of the item as recited in claim 1.

The prior art of record failed to disclose: make obvious, or otherwise suggest A method for constructing data concerning item specifications in a system for managing an asset, the method implemented at least in part by a computing device, the asset including a plurality of items comprising: receiving a plurality of data values, each value being provided into a data field of said at least one specification template on the interface, wherein the plurality of data values comprise a specification for an item and each data field of the specification describes a functional attribute of the item and at least one component value associating the at least one item specification with a second item type, wherein the specification further includes a virtual area association as recited in claim 9.

The prior art of record failed to disclose: make obvious, or otherwise suggest a method of allowing users to manage an asset, the asset including a plurality of items having features and attributes comprising receiving data from the client including an attribute value characterizing the item and at least one component value associating the at least one item type with the second item type for at least one item and storing said values in a database, wherein the at least one attribute is a functional attribute of the item as recited in claim 28.

The prior art of record failed to disclose: make obvious, or otherwise suggest a system for defining and managing an asset, the asset including a plurality of items associated with the asset, comprising a data store for item specification data provided on a host computer coupled to a network, each item specification including for one of the plurality of items at least one attribute value characterizing the item and at least one

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component value associating the item type with a second item type, wherein the specification further includes a virtual area association as recited in claim 35.

The dependent claims 2-8, 10-27, 29-34, 36-39 and 41-51, being further limiting to the independent claims 1, 9, 28 and 35 definite and fully enable by the specification are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4025. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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Cindy Nguyen
January 2, 2007

Erin P. Whelan
for any examiner